

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to change molecule to molecular tag. This change does not narrow the amended claims and is presented to remove an antecedent basis problem. The tag can be molecular or atomic. Although a molecular tag is derived from a molecule, the tag itself is a molecular tag.

Applicants have set forth the entire dependency structure of the elected claims and have attempted to related the elected species and subspecies to each of the elected claims. Applicants believe that they have identified every species and subspecies and associated the elected claims with each species and subspecies selection. Applicants believe that the identification previously presented accomplished exactly the same thing, but may have been less understandable.

Applicants has respectfully request and that groups I and II be combined. Both groups require a modified nucleotide, therefore, both an tightly interwoven. Additionally, a single search should be capable of addressing both the compositions and the method of using the composition. Therefore, Applicants request modification of the restriction requirement so that groups I and II can be prosecuted jointly.

However, if the Examiner maintains the restriction requirement in its present form, Applicant elects group II for prosecution in this application. The claims are labeled accordingly. If the Examiner withdraws the restriction as to group I and II, Applicants respectfully authorize the Examiner, by Examiner's amendment, to alter the withdrawn status of claims 1-6 and 17-18 to original status.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the additional claim charges to Deposit Account No. 501518. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501518.

If you have any questions, please call me at 713.977.7000.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert W. Strozier, Reg. No. 34,024

Date: February 16, 2005